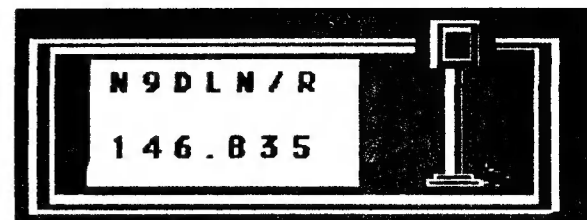


# THE SPARK GAP

MIDSTATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
N9DON, PRES. K9PDI, V. PRES. WB9AYB, SEC/TR.  
MAY 1991 VOL 3



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

We had a great tour of channel 8 and GTE. Thanks to NT9J and KB9BGS. Welcome to the club Andrew, N9KZE. Hope to see you at the next club meeting. I have invited Mike Head WB9ZQE to the next club meeting. Mike came to Franklin in 1984 to discuss the pros and cons of becoming an organized club. I will always be grateful for his advice and support during the past seven years.

If you are doing chores around the house please be careful on the ladder... You too, Ross!

Larry and I wish to extend our sympathies to W9LNX, W9MLN, and N9IMP. Our prayers are with you. Thanks to all for your concern during my mother's illness. She is home now and doing fine.

I'm getting all geared up, or is it keyed up for Field Day. Are you? Congratulations to KA9OOH and NV9K for another successful Novice Class. Congratulations also to the new novices! 73 to all. de N9DON.

## CLUB TOURS TV-GTE

Nearly twenty members of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club and their friends toured the WISH-TV studios and the GTE switching center for the April meeting. WISH-TV meteorologist Ben Woods explained the computers, radar, maps, and weather-gathering system to the crowd. Jack, NT9J and Larry Oaks, WB9YAJ led the curious group through the studio control

area, the master control center, and the 24-hour news room. The first part of the tour concluded with an inspection of the new WISH-TV satellite truck.

After a quick trip across town Eric, KB9BGS and Dave, WB9YIG escorted the club through the GTE switching center. Everyone was impressed with the state-of-the-art audio and video switching equipment. It was a full morning of electronic technology for everyone! Jack and Larry are planning a tour through the WISH-TV transmitter facility for later this fall. Stay tuned for more details....

## WHAT'S NEW IN TECHNOLOGY

According to USA TODAY one of the newest fads available to super markets is an "intelligent" shopping cart. These "impulse buggies" costing \$ 500 apiece, are designed to help the shopper recognize bargains, compare items by per unit price, tabulate total cost as items are placed in the cart, issue coupons that are redeemable at the cash register, produce recipes for items purchased, and will even instruct the shopper where they can find an item in the store.

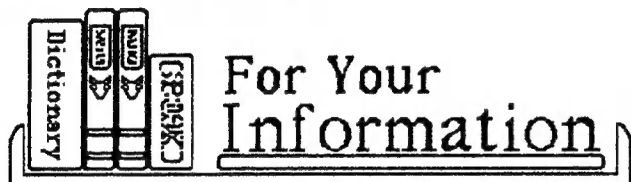
All this is done on a video screen on the handle of the cart which is activated by sensors in the ceiling and on the shelves. Price tags on the shelf items are controlled by a computer and all prices in the store can be changed in 20 minutes. The price could change before getting to the check-out!

### NOVICE CLASSES END

On Monday, May 6 the final Novice class was held. This year's class produced 8 new novices. Hopefully their license will arrive in time to upgrade at the June VEC session in Franklin. Those completing the requirements for Novice were:

Mina Andery	Franklin
Barb Coboon	Franklin
Chris Culver	Indianapolis
Anders Sandstrom	Franklin
Andy Smith	Plainfield
Casey Smith	Indianapolis
Joe Smith	Indianapolis
Lynn Wilhelm	Greenwood

The Mid-State ARC extends congratulations to these new Novices and we hope they will consider becoming a member of our club.



### VEC TESTING FOR MAY AND JUNE

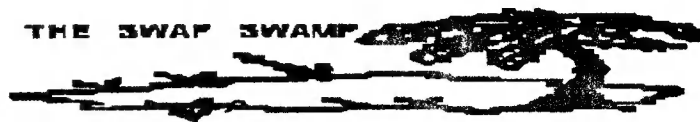
May 18	Rushville	N6RS	317-763-6090
May 18	Anderson	W9JFC	317-643-6260
June 1	Muncie	W9JUJ	317-288-0481
June 15	Franklin	NV9K	317-736-6320
June 29	Indpls.	NQ9R	317-291-3569

### KE9V AND KB9BGS GO CANADIAN !

Mike KK9V and Eric KB9BGS are going to VES area for Field Day. They will depart June 19 and will operate on Field Day weekend. Frequencies will be all 10 through 80 meters. They will be using mainly CW but will also use some sideband.

They will be operating out-side of Field Day for casual contacts. Exact Freqs will be announced later.

### THE SWAP SWAMP



FOR SALE: Dentron Super Tuner Plus, NYE Phone patch, NYE Straight Key, Speaker for Kenwood 430/440, MFJ Deluxe Versa Tuner II, Drake TR4C and RV4c w/PS and Spkr., Drake T4XB B-line, and Drake R4B B-line. Call WA9RDF at 736-5643

Articles for the Swap-Swamp should be submitted to NV9K by 2nd saturday of the month. These can be by phone or packet radio. (See following article).

### NEW WB5VZT BBS PACKET FEATURE

Bob, WB5VZT has added a new feature to his local area BBS. You can now read the MARC Newsletter on his BBS at 145.030 ! You can also submit articles for the Newsletter to NV9K through this BBS. Log-on and get the instructions for these features ! If you intend to read the Spark-Gap through this means and do not want to receive it by mail, let NV9K know--we can save another stamp !

### WE NEED NEWS

We are always looking for news of special interest to hams and to MARC members in particular. You can submit it by phone, by general packet, mail, or by the WB5VZT BBS special Newsletter Directory. We can always use information about ANY Ham-related activity. So why not submit something ?

The article on the next page is an example of Ham activity that has been going on in our area. More should be aware of these activities !



## UP, UP, AND AWAY BALLOON LAUNCH

A few weeks ago a crowd gathered at the Franklin High School baseball field to witness the launching of a balloon that lifted a project for the high school Space Flight Simulation class. Doug Craig, teacher of the class began work on this project last October. He contacted Chuck Crist, WD9IHS, who had experienced other launchings in Ohio. Chuck visited the class and together the group designed the basic package for the flight.

The project package contained a down-view black and white video camera using a 439.25 transmitter running 1.5 watts video. A 2 meter transmitter of 2 watts with a CW ID failed during the actual flight. A circuit board was included which gave color graphics making it possible to alternate with the camera. For tracking purposes a 6 meter beacon on frequency 29.328 was used with 100 milliwatts of power. This was heard as far as British Columbia in Canada. Everything used lithium batteries and the total package weight was 4 pounds 2 oz. All of this was in a styrofoam container for durability and ease of recovery. This was attached by a 70 foot tether line to a high-altitude balloon filled with 98 cubic

feet of Helium. The balloon reached a maximum height of 115,000 feet.

The class of 19 students also built 2 separate radar reflectors to aid the Indianapolis Radar System in tracking the project. A room was provided at the school for a Mission Control center and communications hub. Students involved were Doug Wiegand, Thurman Alvey, Matt Sauer, Valecia Wesley, and Candy DeWitt. Ron Hamilton, KA9VWR, was communications officer aided by Dave KN9E, Darrell KM9S, and Seth KB9BGV. Ron Togue, KD9QB was in the chase airplane in contact with the launch site. The recovery team consisted of Ron Bore, Larry Oaks WB9YAJ, Bernie Heffernan KB9AWS, Win Hardisty K9EMV, and Keenan Hardisty N9HCK.

The plans for an October launch are already being considered. The class is going to try to do something with a robotic arm! This was a tremendous educational experience for the 19 students involved. Subject areas used were electronics, physics, mathematics, weather analysis, communications, journalism and project evaluation. Congratulations to the entire group of students and Hams! We will be looking forward to your October encore!

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## FIELD DAY

Joan would like to have one of your QSL cards to put in the repeater shack. Please send her one or bring to the club meeting.

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## JUNE 22/23

Have you paid your club dues?